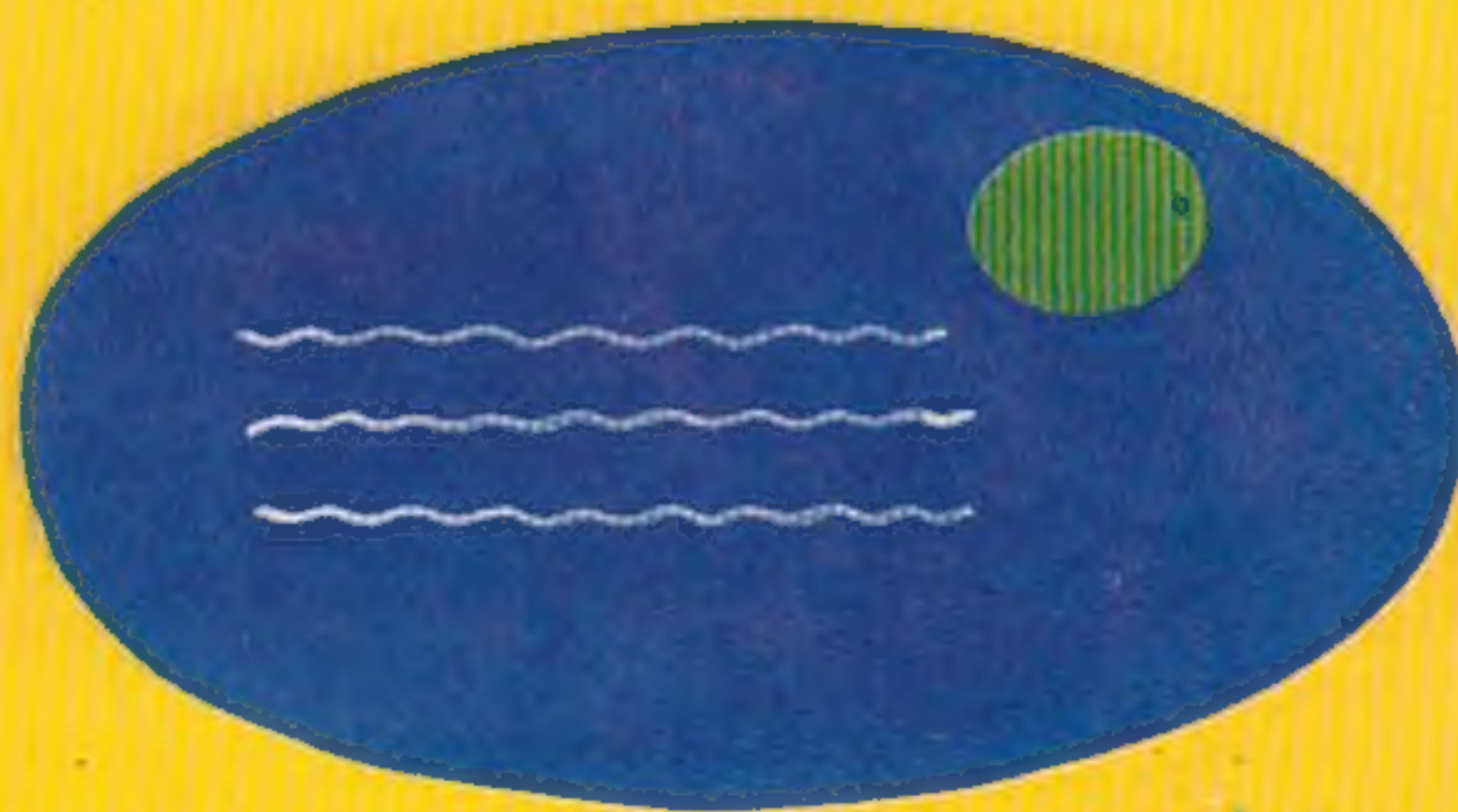


PLOP!
PLOP!



Plop! Plop!

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One autumn morning a little white rabbit, a brown one and a gray one were hopping and playing in a papaya grove.



Butterflies flew over and two of them landed on some flowers. The little white rabbit crept up to catch them.



Suddenly the rabbits heard a “plop” from the lake.
They were frightened and ran into the grass to hide.



Nothing happened. "What a terrible sound it was," they said.



They went back to the lake to see what the plop was. Then there was another plop. "A monster!" they thought and ran away.



A little fox was dancing in the forest, gaily swinging its tail. Two little birds flew over and wanted to show to the fox that they could dance better than him.



The fox tried to catch the birds, but the birds got away.
Just then the white rabbit ran into the fox.



The white rabbit told the fox: "The plop is coming."
"What's that?" asked the fox. By now the brown
rabbit and the gray rabbit were there and they said, "A
dreadful monster. Run away, quick!"



“Oh! Wait for me!” shouted the fox, and ran after the rabbits as fast as he could.



While they were running, a big haw fruit fell on the white rabbit's head.



It turned out that a little monkey had done it as a joke.
The rabbits told the monkey about the plop.



The monkey woke up a little bear and exclaimed:
“Little bear, the plop is coming. Quick! Run away!”
The little bear was frightened too.



The monkey and the little bear ran with the rabbits. Suddenly an elephant caught the fox's tail in its trunk and the fox let out a cry.



The elephant swung its trunk and lifted the fox into the air. Then the elephant gave the fox a ride down its trunk onto the ground. It was fun playing “slide”.



Then the fox said to the elephant, “A monster is coming — a monster with three heads and six legs!” Even the elephant was a little frightened to hear this.



When they came to a pond, the monkey thought he'd get across first by swinging on a wisteria vine, but he landed on the head of a hippo. The monkey thought it was a rock till the hippo raised its head. Then the monkey got a scare.



The little bear told the hippo that a monster was coming. "Run away!" said the little bear.



Finally, all the little animals crossed the pond on the hippo's back. When they were on the other side, the hippo bellowed, "A monster is coming. All run away!"



The hippo's roar was heard all over the valley. The tiger heard it and ran away.



The roar was heard in the gully and the mountain goats there ran away too.



A boar heard the roar and ran for all he was worth into a tree, knocking it over.



Ostriches heard the roar and stuck their heads into the sand. They thought nobody could see them.



The white rabbit ran right into an ostrich, and the frightened ostrich raced off with the rabbit on his back.



The squirrels in the forest heard the hippo's roar and were so frightened that they jumped from branch to branch.



But one little squirrel fell down and gave a frog a scare. The squirrel told the frog to run away quickly. "The plop is coming," said the squirrel. But the frog wasn't frightened. The frog just wanted to know what the matter was.



The boar collided with a mother kangaroo who was carrying her babies in her pouch, throwing them into the air.



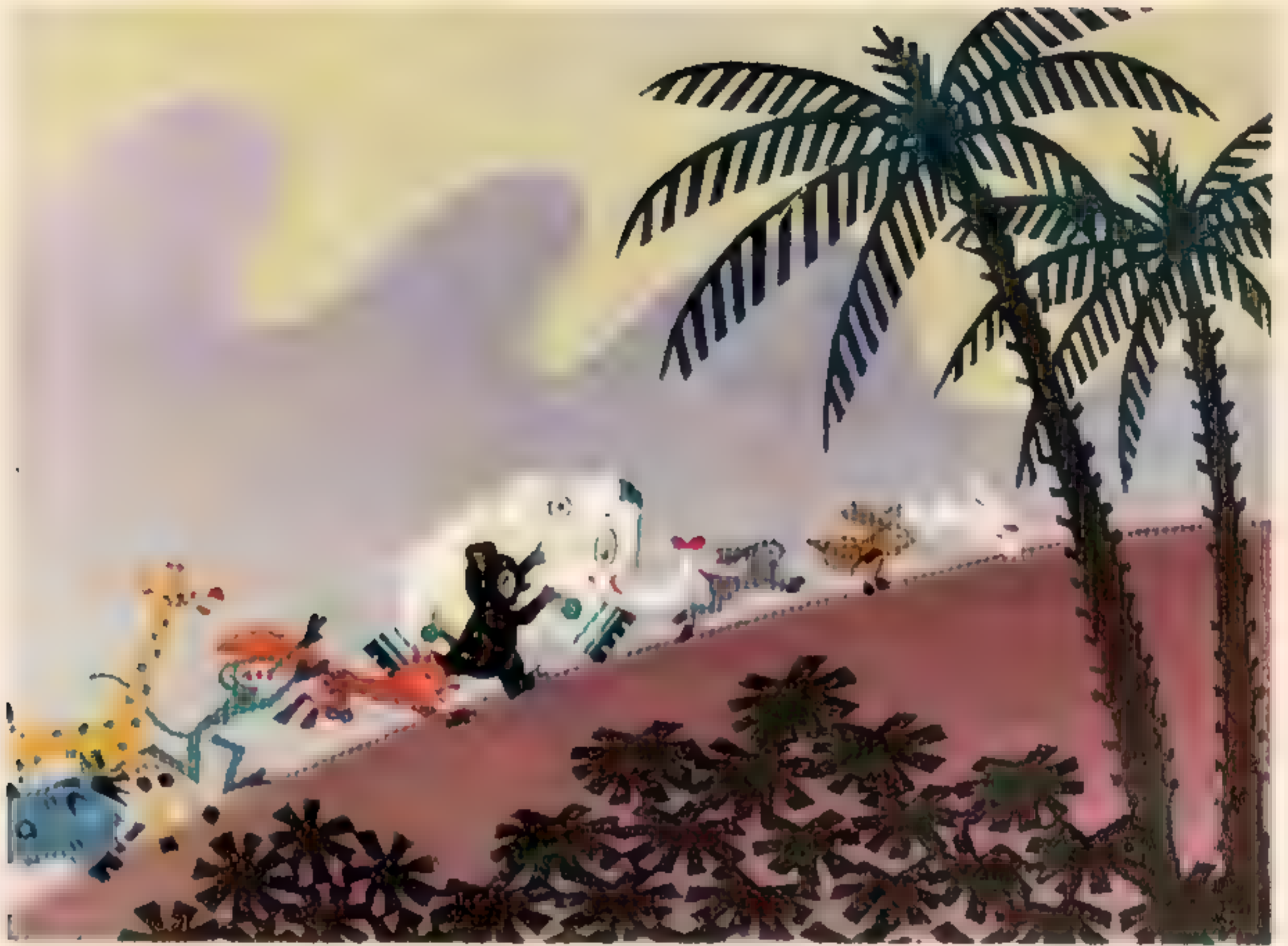
A baby kangaroo caught hold of a branch. He was afraid of falling down.



The mother kangaroo went under the tree and opened her pouch to catch her child.



The frog wondered what everybody was running for.
He shouted at them to stop, but they wouldn't listen.



They ran up a hill, pushing and crowding. Nobody wanted to be last.



But the frog took a short cut to the slope, got up on a log and shouted to the other animals to stop running.



They were running too fast to stop, though, and they all jumped right over the frog. Then the tiger landed on the log and tipped it, so the frog was thrown off.



The frog landed on the back of the elephant, then turned around quickly and caught hold of the elephant's tail.



Then the frog climbed onto the elephant's ear and shouted, "Stop! Stop!" And the elephant did.



Because the boar was running so close behind the elephant, he was squashed between the elephant and the hippo. That hurt.



The rabbits were surprised when they stopped to see what was going on.



The boar had to push as hard as he could to get out from between the elephant and the hippo.



By now everyone was pretty tired and ready to stop running.



The frog jumped down and asked the elephant what it was all about.



The elephant said, "A monster is coming." The hippo added, "It's dreadful!"



The three rabbits also said monster was coming, and the fox and monkey said it had three heads and six legs.



The frog was puzzled and asked the elephant if he had seen anything. The elephant shook his head. Then the frog asked the hippo if he had seen anything. But the hippo hadn't seen anything either.



The tiger, boar, giraffe and the others hadn't seen anything either.



The kangaroo and her babies said they hadn't seen anything strange at all.



Now the frog began to realize what had happened. He asked the bear, the monkey and the fox who had told them about the plop. They said the rabbits had.



The frog went up to the rabbits and asked them if any of them had seen the plop. "Oh, it sounded dreadful," they said. "We didn't dare look at it."



“Let’s go to the lake and see what’s there,” said the frog.



That evening they reached the lake and hid in the papaya grove. The frog jumped onto a tree stump. The water in the lake was smooth and calm.



While they waited among the trees for something to happen, the rabbits and the bear stretched their necks to look around. They felt very nervous.



But nothing happened. So the frog called them out of their hiding places. The three rabbits crept up to the lake, still very frightened.



Then suddenly came the plop sound, and the timid animals ran back into the papaya grove.



The frog saw everything. He laughed and said, “What are you afraid of? That plop is just the sound of a papaya falling into the water.”



The timid animals weren't afraid any more. They went back to the lake. A ripe papaya was floating on the water, ready to be picked up and eaten.



The plop was a false alarm! All the animals were laughing at themselves for running away from a plop, and the three rabbits had to smile at themselves too.

